

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00547 161038Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 /096 W

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R 160945Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4524

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION UN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0547

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LU, GR, EC

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER THORN'S VISIT TO GREECE

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING PRIME MINISTER THORN'S JUNE 28-30 VISIT TO GREECE, PAUL HELMINGER, THORN'S CHEF DE CABINET, SAID EVENTUAL GREEK MEMBERSHIP IN EC IS NEAR CERTAINTY AND THAT NEGOTIATING PHASE LIKELY TO BEGIN UNDER LUXEMBOURG EC PRESIDENCY IN JANUARY 1976. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 14, HELMINGER BELATEDLY GAVE DCM RUN-DOWN
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PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00547 161038Z

ON PRIME MINISTER THORN'S VISIT TO GREECE. HE ACCOMPANIED

THORN ON VISIT AND APOLOGIZED FOR NOT BEING AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS IT EARLIER BUT SAID HE HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN HECTIC TRAVEL SCHEDULE DURING PAST TEN DAYS. HE SAID THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THORN'S VISIT HAD BEEN TO DISCUSS GREEK ENTRY INTO EC BECAUSE NEGOTIATIONS WILL PROBABLY BEGIN WHILE LUXEMBOURG HAS EC PRESIDENCY.

3. HELMINGER SAID THREE FACTORS MAKE GREEK EC ENTRY A NEAR CERTAINTY IN HIS VIEW. FIRST, A COMMUNITY STUDY HAS SHOWN THAT UNDER THE PRESENT ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT AND UNDER FULL GREEK MEMBERSHIP, THERE WOULD BE ONLY NEGLIGIBLE DIFFERENCE IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND THE COMMUNITY. DEPRIVED OF ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS, THOSE LUKEWARM TOWARD GREEK MEMBERSHIP ARE UNWILLING TO OPPOSE IT SOLELY ON POLITICAL GROUNDS. SECONDLY, THE GREEKS HAVE ASSURED THE GOL AND OTHER EC COUNTRIES THEY WILL NOT PERMIT MINOR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OR TRADE SNAGS TO STALL THE NEGOTIATIONS. THIRDLY, THE GOL IS CONVINCED THAT NEITHER PORTUGAL NOR TURKEY IS IN A POSITION TO APPLY SERIOUSLY FOR EC MEMBERSHIP IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE; THUS THE GREEK APPLICATION WILL NOT BE CLOUDED BY EXTRANEIOUS ISSUES OF TURKISH OR PORTUGUESE RELATIONS WITH THE EC. HELMINGER ADDED THAT IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO MODIFY THE TURKISH ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT AT SOME POINT.

4. HELMINGER SAID THAT FOLLOWING THE JUNE 24 EC COUNCIL MINISTER' DECISION "TO NOTE GOG APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY", THORN WAS AUTHORIZED INFORMALLY BY THE COUNCIL TO INFORM CARAMANLIS THAT THE EC "NOTES WITH PLEASURE" GREEK APPLICATION (UK, DENMARK AND IRELAND HAD OBJECTED TO EC'S FORMALLY "NOTING WITH PLEASURE" GREEK APPLICATION SINCE THEIR APPLICATIONS HAD MERELY BEEN "NOTED", HELMINGER ADDED). HE SAID THAT, IN DISCUSSING EC, CARAMANLIS HAD STRESSED POLITICAL ARGUMENTS FOR GREEK MEMBERSHIP BY CONTENDING THAT THE ONLY WAY TO SHIFT GREEK PUBLIC OPINION FROM MORBID CONCERN WITH CYPRUS WAS TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON EUROPE.

5. WHILE HELMINGER SAID HE DID NOT DETECT ANY EVIDENCE THAT CARAMANLIS SAW GREEK EC MEMBERSHIP AS A WAY TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUXEMB 00547 161038Z

DILUTE GREEK TIES WITH NATO WHILE REMAINING ANCHORED IN THE EUROPEAN CAMP, HE SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT CARAMANLIS DOES BELIEVE EC MEMBERSHIP WILL GIVE GREECE GREATER INDEPENDENCE, AS FRENCH GAULLISTS USE THE TERM. HELMINGER SAID THORN PLEDGED TO DO ALL HE COULD WHEN LUXEMBOURG HAS THE PRESIDENCY TO MOVE APPLICATION ALONG.

6. IN HELMINGER'S VIEW, NEGOTIATIONS, RATIFICATION BY
THE MEMBER STATES, AND, ULTIMATELY, FIVE-YEAR
TRANSITION PERIOD WILL BE LENGTHY PROCESS AND GREECE WILL
NOT, IN FACT, BECOME A FULL EC MEMBER MUCH BEFORE THE
1984 TARGET DATE IN THE PRESENT ASSOCIATION
AGREEMENT. FARKAS

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